CARVED IMPOST, AT IPSWICH.

DOOR KNOCKERS.

SIR,—Amidst the motley assemblage of heads, or rather faces, of both sexes, animal and human, having iron rings, held by unnatural mouths, drilled through their jaws, of mean, puny, and unsightly cast-iron abominations, and of "genteel" brassy tokens of bad taste, it really gives one great pleasure to lay hands upon a good, substantial, and honest-looking door-knocker, one that unshrinkingly proclaims the services it renders to the community; and that pleasure is enhanced when it displays upon its bold face (as this does) the presence of art.

The inclosed is a wrought-iron specimen on the door of a private house in Whitehall Gardens, and, to all appearances, was placed there when those buildings were first erected. It is about 10 inches high. The bodies of the animals are wrought all round, and project 2 inches from the door. The joint, or hinge, is formed on a piece of iron, fixed behind the point where the tails are coupled together. The knock is made with the shell, in which the lower part of the legs are represented as being immersed in waves of water.

In Gray's time it was seemingly the practice to have them very massively executed; for, in "The Toilet," he says:—

> "The thund'ring knocker wakes the street no more,
> No chairs, no coaches, crowd her silent door."

Though we are, fortunately, seldom troubled with this nuisance, and never with the blast of a horn announcing the arrival of a visitor, we can still improve as much in decorating this useful appendage, as we are already in advance of the time when they had to "clipe at the door, or knocker, with a stone." (Chaucer.)

The only objection likely to be raised is the expense, it being usually left to the ironmongers, who use the old patterns; but surely this consideration cannot enter into the minds of such as would wish their houses to be, like the great monarch's palace, "all art."

I am, Sir, &c.,

B.

WROUGHT-IRON KNOCKER.

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